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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/824,621

04/02/2001

Harold Mattice

403120

1062

27717

7590

05/04/2006

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EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Period for Reply

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 32-36 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10 & 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luciano et al (US Patent Number 6,641,483) in view of Graham (US Patent Number 5,093,861).

Claims 1, 32: Luciano teaches an apparatus (Lockable Security Cabinet) for selectively controlling access to a plurality of physical areas of a gaming machine. (Abstract)

Luciano teaches a plurality electrically operable lock mechanisms respectively associated with the areas and each physically movable between unlocked and locked conditions with respect to its associated area. (Col 8, 19-21 teaches electronic locks. Fig 3 teaches a plurality of locks. Locks inherently move between a locked and unlocked position.)

Clearly, the data input devices for the electronic locks would be located on the gaming device. Luciano teaches that it is important that certain identified personnel have access to some but not all of the plurality of physical areas. (Col 1, 42-53) Luciano fails to teach the details of the operation of electronic locks. Graham teaches these details.

Graham teaches control circuitry (Fig 3) independent of the gaming machine including a processor (45) operating under control of a stored program (Fig 2) and coupled to each of the lock mechanisms via a communications link (i.e., strike control relay 51) for controlling operation of the lock. This means that the input device is remote

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from the physical lock. Thus the apparatus remotely controls access. There is a data storage and retrieval system adapted to communicate with the processor and including a storage medium for storing data including personnel identification data and access authorization data indicative of the areas if any, of the machine for which a person seeking access to the machine is authorized – Col 3, 15-18 discloses that this data is stored as a 1X8 matrix stored in memory. There is a data input device (46, 47) coupled to the processor for inputting at least personnel identification data identifying a person seeking access to an area of the machine. (Col 3, 22-24) The processor is responsive to input personnel identification data for operating one or more lock mechanisms in accordance with access authorization corresponding to an identified person. (Fig 2) Clearly, a user may access one or more areas of the machine without having access to all areas. The processor causes the lock mechanism of the physical areas to which access is authorized to move to the unlocked position to allow access to those physical areas – this is how all electronic locks work.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Luciano in view of Graham to include the circuitry and programming described in Graham in order to carry out Luciano's suggestion to use electronic locks. The method of use is rendered obvious by the structure.

Claim 2: Graham's data input device includes a keypad (46).

Claims 3, 33: Graham's data input device includes a card reader (47), the data storage and retrieval system including a personal data card assigned to a person seeking access to the machine and readable by the card reader. (Col 4, 5-60)

Claim 4: Graham's data input device further includes a keypad (46).

Claim 5: Luciano teaches one or more doors respectively associated with one or more areas and respectively provided with lock mechanisms, each door being movable between open and closed conditions. (Fig 3)

Claim 6: Each of Luciano's lock mechanisms directly controls access to its associated area.

Claim 7: Each door includes a manual latch, the lock mechanism for a door indirectly controlling access to the associated area by controlling enablement and disablement of the manual latch. This is how locks work. The lock mechanism (443) controls the enablement and disablement of a manual latch (locking tab 452). The locking tab actually holds the door shut – not the lock itself.

Claims 8, 35: Graham teaches a sensing apparatus (48) for sensing the condition of each door and each lock mechanism. (Col 7, 4-8)

Claims 9, 34: Graham teaches a remote control apparatus in communication with the processor for control thereof from a remote location. The keyboard is a remote control apparatus that controls the processor from a location remote from the processor. The processor is remote from the locks.

Claim 10: Luciano teaches that at least one area includes a switch (242, etc), the associated lock mechanism enabling and disabling the switch. (Col 5, 50-54)

Claim 36: Graham teaches providing a manual override key (49) for each lock mechanism and providing an indication (54) when a lock mechanism has been manually operated. (Col 7, 10-18) Graham's manual override switch is presumably in the form of

a button or “key”. If, however, Applicant intends the term “key” to refer to the type of key that operates a lock, then Luciano teaches the use of such keys (used in combination with the switches 242, etc.) to enable the performance of special functions such as programming the processor. (Col 5, 50-54) Manual operation of the lock would be such a special function. Thus either meaning of “key” is taught by the prior art.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 13 April 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. Applicant's arguments are drawn to the claims as amended and are, for the most part, addressed above.

5. Applicant argues that Graham cannot be used to control more than a single lock.

Examiner notes that Graham states, “While the preferred application of the present invention has been shown and described, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that many more modifications are possible without departing from the invention concept herein described.” (Col 7, 19-23) Having a single processor control more than one door is so well known in the art that one of ordinary skill would understand Graham's disclosure to be teaching such a concept. Furthermore, Graham teaches that the system is intended for use in offices and hotels – places that may have hundreds of doors. Graham's system would not be of practical value if each of these hundreds of doors had to have its own processor. It would be a nightmare to program such a system. Every time there was a change in personnel at a company employing a system where the processor control only one door, all of the processors would have to be reprogrammed.

It would be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that a single processor should control all doors to a facility.

Conclusion

6. This is an RCE of applicant's earlier Application No. 09/824,621. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

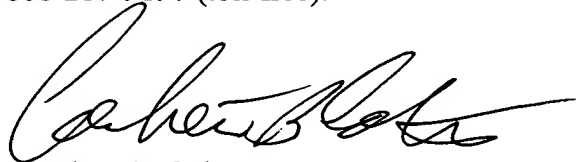
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (571) 272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Corbett B. Coburn
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714

**CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**